

WASHINGTON - PERS. PERS. - 1

OSS ARCHIVE:

HEADQUARTERS and HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES
2324 F STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

alg. + Alg. Det. 70
26 September 1945

SUBJECT: Separation From OSS Of Military Personnel.

TO : Colonel Edward W. Gamble.

1. In furtherance of our conversation this morning I submit my views regarding the problem of liquidation of OSS insofar as military personnel are concerned.

2. Due to an understanding on the part of the 3rd Service Command that OSS was a zone of interior installation, they notified this headquarters that they would no longer clear our personnel for transfer to the various separation centers under their jurisdiction, nor would they continue to clear our personnel for transfer to separation centers under the jurisdiction of the various other service commands throughout the country.

3. Upon being consulted regarding this problem, War Department indicated that:

a. Insofar as overseas returnees are concerned, OSS may consider itself a port of debarkation and may channel its personnel who are eligible for separation to the appropriate separation center, after their having been reported thru the 3rd Service Command to and upon call of the separation center.

b. The separation point established at Fort Belvoir, Va., will service this organization for the processing of zone of interior personnel who are eligible for separation from the service.

4. The 3rd Service Command was notified of the decision of the War Department and has now agreed to clear all of our overseas personnel to the extent of indicating the separation center to which they should be transferred and has authorized direct communication between this organization and such separation centers for the purpose of coordinating the flow of personnel thereto.

5. This headquarters is now in receipt of quotas for separatees as follows:

a. Zone of interior personnel to be sent to Fort Belvoir, during the week following the date that the quota was granted. - 67

b. Overseas returnees for whom a separation center has been designated and who will be transferred as rapidly as the separation center can absorb them. - 52


The above figures indicate that positive action has been taken toward solving our problem expeditiously and efficiently. There is reason to believe that these quotas will be larger in the future.

6. It is not considered feasible that the OSS attempt to establish a separation center of its own for the following reasons:

a. It will be next to impossible to obtain the large number of qualified personnel who will be required to operate such a center.

b. An OSS separation center could actually accomplish the final discharge and separation of only those personnel who were inducted in nearby states and would find it necessary to establish liaison with all other separation centers throughout the United States thru proper military channels. This would meet with considerable opposition from all concerned in view of the fact that they are at present under considerable pressure to expedite the handling of personnel for whom they are rightfully responsible.

7. It is believed that the War Department will not favorably consider the establishment of a separation center by OSS. In view of the imminence of the complete liquidation of OSS as such, and the probable short term existence of any organization growing out of OSS, a separation center could hardly be established and begin functioning in sufficient time for any benefit to be derived there from. Such a move would most certainly result in considerable delay to the mission to be accomplished.



O. G. FITZ
Colonel, CAC
Commanding

26 September 1945

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TO : Colonel Edward W. Gamble, who could actually accomplish the first

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Headquarters

period of time, a substantial reduction in headquarters personnel could be effectuated.

Colonel Pitz expresses a conviction for maintaining minimum rather than maximum numbers within his organization.

RHB

Addenda 9/12:

Col. Pitz reaffirmed that he has 47 persons on his roster. He does utilize the services of other personnel in the PFB pool who are awaiting transfer out etc. About 20 such persons may be so utilized at present.

B.

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Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

FROM : Colonel Edward W. Gamble, Jr
OSS Executive and Liquidating Officer
Robert H. Barnes
DATE: 10 September 1945
SUBJECT: Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

I have had a conversation with Colonel Pitz regarding the general subject of liquidation as pertains to his organization.

I determined that he has presently assigned to him 47 Army personnel, as against an authorized strength of 51. He does not believe it possible to reduce such number because (1) personnel being returned from overseas require much processing which calls for considerable clerical work to make their military records current, and (2) personnel being returned to the Army or designated for discharge demand equally as much processing. Actually, headquarters is probably as busy as it ever has been. If personnel now in overseas theaters were returned directly to the Army, or as the number of returnees declined, within a relatively short period of time, a substantial reduction in headquarters personnel could be effectuated.

Colonel Pitz expresses a conviction for maintaining minimum rather than maximum numbers within his organization.

RHB
[Signature]

Added 9/12:

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